OMAMORI HIMARI

11

PARENTAL ADVISORY
WARNING
EXPLICIT CONTENT

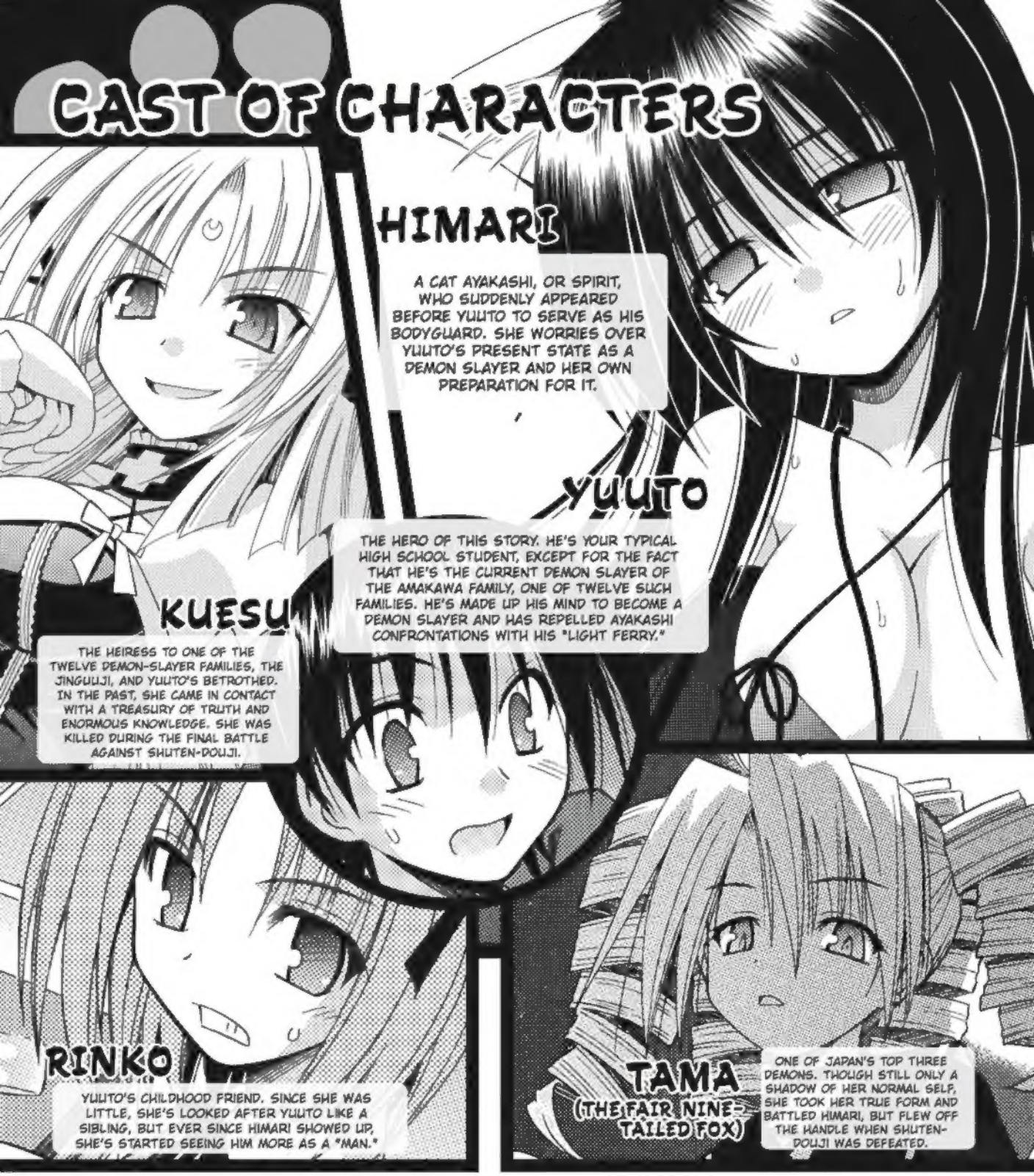
MILAN MATRA

77
OMAMORI HIMARI

CONTENTS

MENAGERIE 63 THE FELINE AYAKASHI'S FANGS SINK DEEP P005
MENAGERIE 64 THE CAT WAS SEEKING BLUE SKIES P027
MENAGERIE 65 THE UNCHANGING WITCH, THE CAT'S MOMENT P051
MENAGERIE 66 THE TRIGGER TO THE CAT'S ACCIDENTAL FIRING P077
MENAGERIE 67 THE TRIGGER TO THE END OF THE CAT'S CONFUSION P101
MENAGERIE 68 ONE OF THE BROKEN CAT'S SHADOWS APPEARS IN THE MIRROR P125
MENAGERIE 68.5 THE CAT AND COMPANY'S SKETCHBOOK ☆ REVENGE P151

CAST OF CHARACTERS



HIMARI

A CAT AYAKASHI, OR SPIRIT, WHO SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE YUUTO TO SERVE AS HIS BODYGUARD. SHE WORRIES OVER YUUTO'S PRESENT STATE AS A DEMON SLAYER AND HER OWN PREPARATION FOR IT.

YUUTO

THE HERO OF THIS STORY. HE'S YOUR TYPICAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, EXCEPT FOR THE FACT THAT HE'S THE CURRENT DEMON SLAYER OF THE AMAKAWA FAMILY, ONE OF TWELVE SUCH FAMILIES. HE'S MADE UP HIS MIND TO BECOME A DEMON SLAYER AND HAS REPELLED AYAKASHI CONFRONTATIONS WITH HIS "LIGHT FERRY."

KUESU

THE HEIRESS TO ONE OF THE TWELVE DEMON-SLAYER FAMILIES, THE JINGUUJI, AND YUUTO'S BETROTHED. IN THE PAST, SHE CAME IN CONTACT WITH A TREASURY OF TRUTH AND ENORMOUS KNOWLEDGE. SHE WAS KILLED DURING THE FINAL BATTLE AGAINST SHUTEN-DOUJI.

RINKO

YUUTO'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND. SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE, SHE'S LOOKED AFTER YUUTO LIKE A SIBLING, BUT EVER SINCE HIMARI SHOWED UP, SHE'S STARTED SEEING HIM MORE AS A "MAN."

TAMA (THE FAIR NINE-TAILED FOX)

ONE OF JAPAN'S TOP THREE DEMONS. THOUGH STILL ONLY A SHADOW OF HER NORMAL SELF, SHE TOOK HER TRUE FORM AND BATTLED HIMARI, BUT FLEW OFF THE HANDLE WHEN SHUTEN-DOUJI WAS DEFEATED.

THE CLASS PRESIDENT

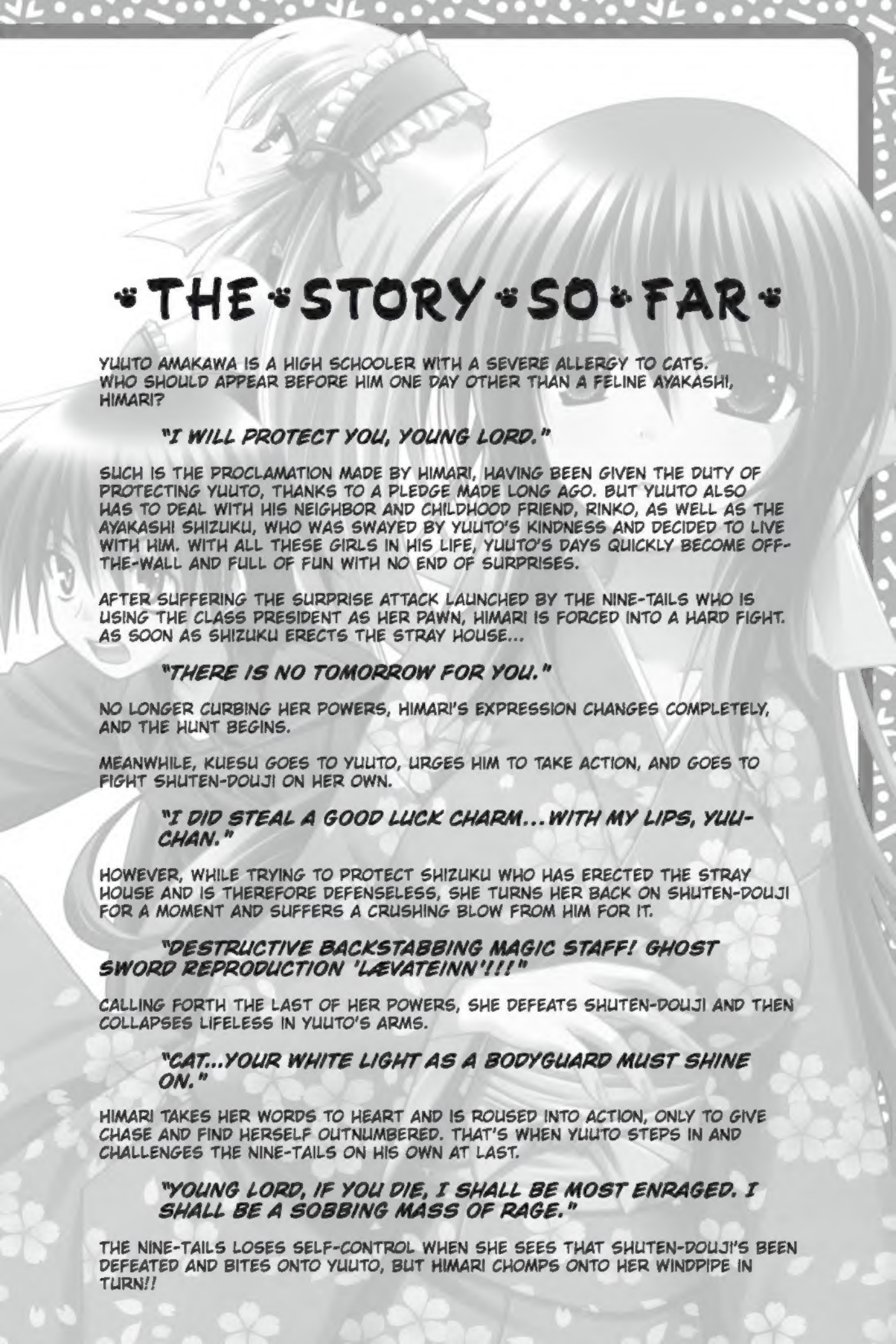
YUUTO'S CLASSMATE AND THE CLASS PRESIDENT. HER NAME IS YUU SHIMAMURA. SHE'S A TOP-NOTCH STUDENT AND OTAKU. SHE WAS MADE THE NINE-TAILS' PUPPET AND USED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HIMARI.

SHIZUKU

AN AYAKASHI WHO CAN MANIPULATE WATER. SHE TRACKED DOWN A DESCENDANT OF THE JIBASHIRI, WHO MASSACRED HER CLAN, AND FELL INTO AN ABYSS OF BLIND RAGE BUT WAS SAVED BY YUUTO'S WORDS AND REGAINED HER SENSES.

KAYA

A ZASHIKI-WARASHI WHO PROTECTS YUUTO'S FAMILY HOME IN NOIHARA. SHE HAS SUPERIOR DEFENSIVE SKILLS AND IS PARTICULARLY STRONG ON THE GROUNDS OF THE PROPERTY. SHE IS EXTREMELY FOND OF HIMARI AND THUS DESPISES YUUTO.



THE STORY SO FAR

YUUTO AMAKAWA IS A HIGH SCHOOLER WITH A SEVERE ALLERGY TO CATS. WHO SHOULD APPEAR BEFORE HIM ONE DAY OTHER THAN A FELINE AYAKASHI, HIMARI?

"I WILL PROTECT YOU, YOUNG LORD."

SUCH IS THE PROCLAMATION MADE BY HIMARI, HAVING BEEN GIVEN THE DUTY OF PROTECTING YUUTO, THANKS TO A PLEDGE MADE LONG AGO. BUT YUUTO ALSO HAS TO DEAL WITH HIS NEIGHBOR AND CHILDHOOD FRIEND, RINKO, AS WELL AS THE AYAKASHI SHIZUKU, WHO WAS SWAYED BY YUUTO'S KINDNESS AND DECIDED TO LIVE WITH HIM. WITH ALL THESE GIRLS IN HIS LIFE, YUUTO'S DAYS QUICKLY BECOME OFF-THE-WALL AND FULL OF FUN WITH NO END OF SURPRISES.

AFTER SUFFERING THE SURPRISE ATTACK LAUNCHED BY THE NINE-TAILS WHO IS USING THE CLASS PRESIDENT AS HER PAWN, HIMARI IS FORCED INTO A HARD FIGHT. AS SOON AS SHIZUKU ERECTS THE STRAY HOUSE...

"THERE IS NO TOMORROW FOR YOU."

NO LONGER CURBING HER POWERS, HIMARI'S EXPRESSION CHANGES COMPLETELY, AND THE HUNT BEGINS.

MEANWHILE, KUESU GOES TO YUUTO, URGES HIM TO TAKE ACTION, AND GOES TO FIGHT SHUTEN-DOUJI ON HER OWN.

"I DID STEAL A GOOD LUCK CHARM...WITH MY LIPS, YUU-CHAN."

HOWEVER, WHILE TRYING TO PROTECT SHIZUKU WHO HAS ERECTED THE STRAY HOUSE AND IS THEREFORE DEFENSELESS, SHE TURNS HER BACK ON SHUTEN-DOUJI FOR A MOMENT AND SUFFERS A CRUSHING BLOW FROM HIM FOR IT.

"DESTRUCTIVE BACKSTABBING MAGIC STAFF! GHOST SWORD REPRODUCTION 'LÆVATEINN'!!!"

CALLING FORTH THE LAST OF HER POWERS, SHE DEFEATS SHUTEN-DOUJI AND THEN COLLAPSES LIFELESS IN YUUTO'S ARMS.

"CAT...YOUR WHITE LIGHT AS A BODYGUARD MUST SHINE ON."

HIMARI TAKES HER WORDS TO HEART AND IS ROUSED INTO ACTION, ONLY TO GIVE CHASE AND FIND HERSELF OUTNUMBERED. THAT'S WHEN YUUTO STEPS IN AND CHALLENGES THE NINE-TAILS ON HIS OWN AT LAST.

"YOUNG LORD, IF YOU DIE, I SHALL BE MOST ENRAGED. I SHALL BE A SOBBING MASS OF RAGE."

THE NINE-TAILS LOSES SELF-CONTROL WHEN SHE SEES THAT SHUTEN-DOUJI'S BEEN DEFEATED AND BITES ONTO YUUTO, BUT HIMARI CHOMPS ONTO HER WINDPIPE IN TURN!!

IT'S DANGEROUS OUT HERE. GET BACK, RINKO! WE'RE ENDING THIS THING NOW!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!? WE HAVE TO STOP THE BLEEDING!
URK...
YUU-TO!
YORO (STAGGER)
GASHU (CHOMP)
HFFFF ...!
HFFFF ...!

MENAGERIE 63: THE FELINE AYAKASHI'S FANGS SINK DEEP

ぼひゅ
BOHYU (FWOOSH)
ジュル
JURU (SUCK)
YOU... CAT...!
グチュ
GUCHU (SHLURP)
!
ガッ
GA (GRAB)
ボン
BON (BOOM)
...!!!
グキッ
GUKI (CRIK)

...!!
THIS IS NOT A PROBLEM YOU CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT.
YOU MAY BE A SCHOOL FRIEND OF HIMARI-SAMA'S, BUT YOU ARE A MERE HUMAN.
AND THIS IS A FIGHT BETWEEN WHAT YOU CALL COHORTS OF DARKNESS.
BIKU (JOLT)
!!
NOI-HA-RA'S ...
PLEASE DON'T MOVE FROM THERE.
NOIHARA-SAN. TAMA-SAN...
GUCHU (SHLURP)
...!
BAKI (SHLLICK)
YOU MAY FEEL OBLIGATED SINCE THE NINE-TAILS HAD BEEN CONTROLLING YOU, BUT...
...THAT TOO ENDS NOW.

...YOU DID WELL FOR BEING SO USE-LESS.
BUT I GOTTA ADMIT ...
KAYA.
YO. SHE SURE TOOK A GOOD CHUNK OUTTA YOU.
DON'T SAY THAT. YOU WON'T LEAVE ME ANY INSULTS.
THANKS, RINKO
A SMALL PRICE TO PAY FOR HOW USE-LESS I'VE BEEN.
...TO BURN HER INSTEAD.
I'D HAVE NEVER GUESSED YOU'D USE THE "LIGHT FERRY" TO AMPLIFY THE DEMONIC POWERS THE NINE-TAILS HAD BEEN USING AS A WALL ...
SHE'S GOT NO CHANCE TO TURN THE TABLES NOW.
HIMARI'S GOT THIS ONE IN THE BAG!
Y-YEAH ...
PICHA (SHLIP)
GUCHA (SHLURP)

FAIR-FACED NINE-TAILED FOX.
TAMAMO-NO-MAE.
YOU CALL YOUR-SELF ONE OF THE TOP THREE DEMONS.
EAT HER. EAT HER UNTIL THERE'S NOTHING LEFT.
BUT I SHALL EAT THIS WILD FOX.
YOU MAIMED THE YOUNG LORD.
I SHALL FINISH YOU SO THAT YOU CANNOT SHADOW US ANYMORE.
Hoo ...

TAKE IT...
...ALL.

!
BIKU (CHILL)
HEY, YUUTO! IS THIS OKAY!? IS THIS REALLY ALL RIGHT!?
HELL, NO, IT ISN'T!
NUPU (SLORP)
ぬ
ぷ
BUT IF THIS IS WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A DEMON SLAYER, I CAN'T LOOK THE OTHER WAY!
...
OTHER-WISE, KUESU'S DEATH WOULD BE IN VAIN...!
BUN (VRR)
NINE-TAILS-SAMA!

IT'S NO GOOD. I'LL HIT NINE-TAILS-SAMA...!
CHA (K-CLICK)
DAN (TMP)
GUSHU (GULP)
GAPU (ULP)
!?
KYAAH!?
GASHI (GRAB)
GYUUUU (SQUUUUZE)
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING!? YOU IDIOT! PERVERT!
KAAA (BLUUUSH)

*RINKO MISTAKES THE PROPER TERM FOR THIS AYAKASHI, WHICH IS "TENI SAGARI" OR "CEILING DESCENDER."

!!
HEY, YOU IDIOTS! BLOCK-HEADS! HI-MARI'S IN TROU-BLE!
ZO
ZO
ZO

IT IS MAKING ME REEL... THE DEEP RESENTMENT OF THE AYAKASHI WHO WERE MADE HER SACRIFICES ARE JET-BLACK AND BURNING COLD...
THIS...
THIS HOT DARK-NESS... THIS VITALITY ...
AH YES. THIS IS...
...ALL THE DEMONIC POWERS FROM THE AYAKASHI SHE HAS EATEN SO FAR.
That's... mine...
WHAT IS THIS BURNING MASS... WITHIN HER BODY ...?
...You...
...are sucking... it out...
...TASTES DELICIOUS.

Don't suck it out ...
It belongs to me ...!
Gu (SHOVE)
Ah...!
How many ayakashi have you made suffer just like this?
Well? How does it feel to be on the other side?
...!!

That reminds me. Last time...
...you bit me right here.
It'll be bony, but no matter.
GAPU (CHOMP)
BIKU (JOLT)
...!!!
ZO (SUUUUCK)
ZO
ZO
ZO
ZO
PIKU (TWITCH)
PIKU
ZURU (SLIP)

...THAT BEING FROM LAST TIME...!
NO MISTAK-ING IT, THIS IS...
NOT GOOD! HIMARI'S... HIMARI'S ABSORB-ING THE NINE-TAILS' DEMONIC POWERS!
STOP IT, HI-MARI!
THAT'S ENOUGH! STOP!
HIMARI! DON'T DRINK HER DEMONIC POWERS!
GET OFF OF HER!
じゅるっ...
JURU (SUCK)
KUCHA (SHLIP)
ZUZO (SUCK)
ずぞぞぞぞ
KUH!
KA (FLASH)
WA-WAH!

SAAAAAA
(SSSSHHH)
EE...!?
DOSA
(SPLAT)

TAMA-SAN!?
HOO
HOO
WE'RE RE-TREAT-ING.
UUNGH
I'LL DEACTI-VATE THE FORCE FIELD AT ONCE.
...
...HEH HEH...
... KUH HUH.
HEH HA HA HA...
HEH HEH HEH ...

HA HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA HA!
HIMARI DEFEATED THE NINE-TAILS.
HAAA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
BY A LAND-SLIDE.
BUT THE VICTORY LAUGH HIMARI GAVE...

...FRIGHTENED EVERYONE WHO HEARD IT.
YUUTO.
SHI-ZUKU?
I'M GOING TO BE DE-ACTIVAT-ING THE STRAY HOUSE SHORTLY... YOU KNOW.
A LARGE AMOUNT OF WATER WILL FALL, SO BE CAREFUL... YOU KNOW.
KIN CTING

OH.
AH!
どざざあああ
DOZAAAAA (SSSSHHH)
OH, COME ON. YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY TO HAVE BEEN LOCKED IN A KARAOKE ROOM WITH AN UNDER-CLASS GIRL.
... BECAUSE YOU KEPT WANTING TO STAY LONGER AND LONGER, LOOK HOW LATE IT IS ALREADY.
...THE HELL? I DIDN'T HEAR ANY-THING ABOUT IT RAINING TODAY...
UWAH! DON'T LOOK, BROTHER. YOU PERVO.
ZAAAAA (SSSSHHH)
.....
YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON I COULD LOOK AT AND NOT GET OFF ON IT!!

I'M GOING TO NEED TO BE COMPEN-SATED.
...I DON'T MIND, BUT IS THIS A COMMIS-SION?
HII
ZAAAAA (SSSSHHH)
...YES, WELL, I CAN'T ANALYZE AND MAKE A PREDICTION FROM DATA I HAVEN'T EVEN GOTTEN.
THAT FORCE FIELD SHUT OUT EVEN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVES.
SEE YA.
OKAY, I GOT IT.
YOU GUYS FAILED AT THE ROUND TABLE THING BEFORE ...
LIKE, WHAT WILL BE THE END OF A BIZARRE LIFE WHERE DEMON SLAYERS AND AYAKASHI LIVE IN HARMONY... WILL THE RAIN LET UP?
KUH-HEE-HEE. THE GEAR THAT IS OUT OF PLACE DEMANDS SUPERVI-SION.

MENAGERIE 64: THE CAT WAS SEEKING BLUE SKIES

ONE MAJOR BATTLE ENDED.

LEAVING LOTS OF DIFFERENT PEOPLE WITH LOTS OF DIFFERENT THINGS.

SINCE I WASN'T THERE, I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT HAPPENED TO KUESU, AND I'M IN NO POSITION TO ASK FOR THE DETAILS.

BUT WE HAVE TO GET BACK TO OUR REGULAR LIVES.

I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE CLASS PRESIDENT AND HIMARI, BUT...

...MOST OF ALL, I HAVE TO MAKE SURE YUUTO DOESN'T REVERT TO THE WITHDRAWN PERSON HE USED TO BE.

AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF EVERYDAY LIFE, I HAVE TO STAY ON HIM!!

MENAGERIE 64: THE CAT WAS SEEKING BLUE SKIES

URH... HEAVY. I CAN'T MOVE... AND I'M COLD...
ZZZ
THIS HAS HAPPENED BEFORE...
THIS IS...
SHITTORI (DAMP)
SHIZUKU...
GOOD MORNING... YOU KNOW.

DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO THE LITTLE THINGS... I'LL SOAK IT UP AFTER...YOU KNOW.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BOUGHT A CHEAP METAL FRAME BED YOU KNOW
...FOR YOUR INFORMATION, YOU'RE GOING TO WATERLOG MY BED AGAIN...
MORE IMPORTANTLY... YOU PROMISED THAT WHEN THE FIGHT'S OVER...YOU'D DO SOMETHING EVEN MORE PASSIONATE WITH ME.
THAT CAT AND KUESU WERE BOTH IDIOTS...I'M THE ONLY ONE YOU'VE GOT...YOU KNOW.
BUT... SINCE I'M SO STUPID TOO...I...
.....
WH-WH-WH-WHEN DID I EVER PROMISE THAT?
PICHA (DRIP)

SHIZUKU, YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
なで
NADE (STROKE)
ギュ
GYU (HUG)
YOU'RE RIGHT. THANKS TO A CERTAIN SOMEBODY, I'VE GOT TO TAKE A SHOWER FIRST, THOUGH.
YOU'VE GOT A LITTLE BIT OF TIME STILL, BUT...GET READY FOR SCHOOL... YOU KNOW.
BERO (LAP)
BERO
BEROOON (LIIICK)
BOX: METRO POLICE DEPT. SECURITY BUREAU

THAT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEIR GENER-OSITY FOREVER ...
I ASSURE YOU THERE ARE NO WIRETAPS OR HIDDEN CAMERAS INSTALLED.
WE'VE PREPARED ONE OF THE TAKAMIYA CONDO ROOMS FOR YOU.
OOP-SIE
I'VE GOT TO CALL THE LAWYER TRUSTEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
PETA (FLOMP)
BASHA (SPLASH)

YOU...
I'VE GOT A HANDLE ON SOMETHING GOOD
GOOD GRIEF...
I'M READY FOR WHAT'S COMING.
むにゅ
MUNYU (GROPE)
むに
MUNI
ゾゾゾン
DOGOOON (BOOONK)
DOOF!
YOU LITTLE...!!
...BY THE WAY, WHERE IS HIMARI?
S-SORRY, KAYA! I DIDN'T MEAN TO!
AND THIS DULLARD COMES IN AND. AND..!!
M-MY BREASTS!
TH-THEY HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN TOUCHED BY HIMARI YET!!

HIMARI, WE ALREADY DEFEATED THE NINE-TAILS, SO WHY ARE YOU STILL...?
BUT YOU JUST TOLD ME.
NOT THAT I'D EVER TELL THE KING OF ALL PERVERTS LIKE YOU!
DUH! SHE'S AT MORNING PRACTICE!
KAAA (BLUUUSH)
ZAAAAAA (SSSSHHH)

...IT'S NOT SO EASY TO ACCEPT.
...THEN ACCEPT ALL THAT THAT ENTAILS...THE GOOD AND THE BAD...
...
SHAAAA (SSSHHHH)
NO, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
SO YOU CANNOT ACCEPT IT?
.....
ZAAAAA (SSSHHHH)
.....

むにゅう
MUNYUU (MOOSH)
GABA (GLOMP)

...
YOU'RE NOT SHOCKED.
I GUESS I'M USED TO IT...SO LONG AS YOU STAY OUT OF MY FIELD OF VISION.

.....
HMPH.

IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE HUMIDITY, THEN DON'T COME IN HERE!
THAT'S RIGHT. I HATE THE HUMIDITY, SO WHEN I PRESS MY BODY TO YOURS, I DESERVE AT LEAST THAT MUCH OF A REACTION.
SAWA (STROKE)
SAWA
AYA-SAN, I DON'T GET YOU!

UHAWAAAAAH!!
MOSHA
YOU KNOW
MOSHA (CHEW)

...WELL, I DO UNDERSTAND HOW HARD IT IS FOR YOU TO ACCEPT...
NOW THEN.
THAT'S NOT IT! THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT, YOU IDIOT!!
PUNYU (MOOSH)
PUNYU
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL DO THE ACCEPTING FOR YOU. ♥
!!
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO ABOUT THAT ONE?
KYU? (SQUEAK)

AAAH!
AAAH!
PASHA (SPLASH)
THE FAIR-FACED NINE-TAILED FOX.
ZABA (SPLOOSH)
TAMAMO-NO-MAE'S NERVES MUST BE SHOT, BECAUSE AFTER HIMARI CONSUMED HER, SHE LOST HER MEMORIES... IT'S LIKE SHE'S REVERTED INTO A LITTLE KID.
.....
WEE!
SQUEAL!
RINKO AND THE CLASS PRESIDENT PLEADED THAT I NOT FINISH HER OFF.
BUT SHE COULDN'T JUST BE LEFT OUT THERE LIKE THAT, SO WE BROUGHT HER HOME.
THERE'S NO TELLING IF SHE'LL ALWAYS BE LIKE THIS OR IF SOME FLUKE EVENT WILL RE-TURN HER TO THE EVIL FOX SHE ONCE WAS. NOT EVEN SHIZUKU CAN SAY.
OW, OW, OW..
MUNI! (STRETCH)
HEE HA HA HA!

SHIZUKU'S PISSED, SAYING THAT THIS HOUSE DOESN'T NEED TWO LOLITAS.
I'LL KILL HER YOU KNOW
BUT THERE'S NO MISTAKING THAT SOONER OR LATER THEY...
...ARE GOING TO ASK ME ABOUT KUESU, TAMAMO-NO-MAE AND HI-MARI.
WHERE DID I GO WRONG?
WHAT DO I DO?
HAAH...
GUDE (SLUMP)
グデ...
HMM?
!
ARE YOU TIRED, YOUNG LORD?
IF YOU ARE ILL AT EASE... TAKE HEART.

ZAWA
(MURMUR)
FUWA
(FLUMP)
NOIHARA-SAN, WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LESSON ...!

DON'T YOU DARE GIVE ME ORDERS.
YOU HUMAN.
AH! ...UH.
HI-MARI, WE'RE IN CLASS ...
IS THE ROOT OF YOUR DESPON-DENCY KUESU?
SHE WAS A FOOL.
WHAT ...?
SHE DID THE ONE THING SHE MOST OUGHT HAVE NOT.
SHE ABANDONED YOU.

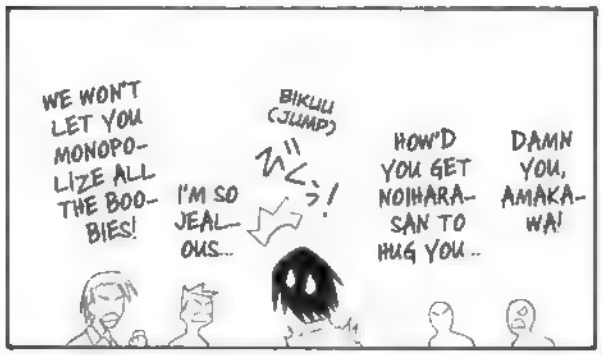
HI-MARI...
THAT'S HOW IT WAS. EVEN THOUGH I WAS WATCHING EVERYTHING AS IT WAS HAPPENING, I STILL COULDN'T BELIEVE IT.
I GUESS I REALLY AM PA-THETIC.
.....
IT FEELS LIKE A HOLE'S OPENED UP IN MY HEART...
...BUT I WON'T EVEN TRY TO FACE THAT HOLE HEAD-ON.
...WHAT A SHAME.
I ENVY KUESU FOR BEING ABLE TO OCCUPY YOU SO DEEPLY.
HUH?

BOFU (POOMF)
MMPH!
BUT I AM HERE.
NO MATTER WHEN, YOU HAVE ME.
EVEN IF A HUNDRED ARROWS FALL UPON YOU OR A THOUSAND ENEMIES BEAR DOWN ON YOU...
...I WILL PROTECT YOU BEHIND AND IN FRONT, LEFT AND RIGHT, IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH.
ALL YOU MUST DO...

...IS STAY RIGHT HERE.
HAVE SOME COMMON SENSE, NOIHARA-SAN!!
GATA (CLATTER)

AS CLASS PRESIDENT, I CANNOT LET YOU INTERRUPT CLASS ANY FURTHER!
RETURN TO YOUR SEAT!
MISS PRESI-DENT...
EITHER WAY, WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO PULL HERE, HIMARI?
HEH HEH ...
I CAN'T WIN AGAINST THE CLASS PRESIDENT... ALL RIGHT, I GET IT.
SU (SLIDE)
SU (SWF)

NOIHA-RA-SAN, WE'RE ON THE THIRD FLOOR!!
...


WE WON'T LET YOU MONOPO-LIZE ALL THE BOO-BIES!
I'M SO JEAL-OUS...
BIKUU (JUMP)
HOW'D YOU GET NOIHARA-SAN TO HUG YOU..
DAMN YOU, AMAKA-WA!

THIS NO LONGER HOLDS MY INTEREST... WE SHALL FINISH THIS LATER TO-NIGHT, YOUNG LORD.

I BET IT'S THE AFTER-EFFECTS FROM THE FIGHT THE OTHER DAY.
HIMARI MAY BE A RAUNCHY CAT PRINCESS, BUT SHE'S NEVER ACTED LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE BEFORE.
...WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?

I REPRESENT THE EVERY DAY! I CAN'T GO SAYING THINGS THAT'LL MAKE HIM WORRY LIKE THAT!
OH NO! NOT GOOD!!
YEAH, I BET...
.....
NOW DON'T GET ME WRONG! A LOT'S HAP-PENED IN THE PAST YEAR SINCE HIMARI CAME ALONG, BUT WE'VE DONE WELL SO FAR!
GU (CLENCH)
YES, WE CAN!
THINGS WILL TURN OUT FINE! WE CAN DO THIS!!
HA-HA! RINKO, YOU'RE ALWAYS SO...
... POSI-TIVE...
ZOKU (CHILL)
WHO'S THERE!?
!?
BA (JUMP)
OH, HO... SO YOU PICKED UP ON ME?

IN THAT CASE, YOU MIND COMING A LITTLE CLOSER?
ZU (SLIIP)
I DON'T HAVE MUCH SPACE UP HERE ON THE ROOF, SO I'M LONE-SOME.
ZU
ZU
EH? AMAKAWA-KUN.
IT'S THAT DAN-GLING DOWN GIRL FROM BEFORE!?
DON'T CALL ME WEIRD NAMES!!
THEN YOU BETTER NOT MIND ME GETTING SO CLOSE THAT I GET CALLED A PERVERT FOR IT!
GA (STOMP)
FUWA (FWAP)
!!

WHAT HAP-PENED TO NINE-TAILS-SAMA? WHERE IS SHE?
DEPENDING ON HOW YOU ANSWER, KUROZA-KURA WILL SLICE THIS BUILDING TO RIBBONS...
...AND I'LL SHOOT UP ALL THE STUDENTS INSIDE.
KIN (STING)
TAMAMO-NO-MAE, HUH? ...SHE'S FINE.
MORE OR LESS
HUH... DO YOU MIND LETTING US SEE HER?
TWO ON ONE... CAN I DO THIS? FIRST I'LL HAVE TO...
OH ME, OH MY. IS THE CAT ABSENT?
JUST AS I THOUGHT. WITHOUT ME AROUND, EVERYTHING GOES TO POT.
BASA (RUSTLE)

?
!!
KUH HEE HEE...
WELL, I SUPPOSE THE GREAT KUESU-SAMA WILL HAVE TO MAKE THIS...
...HER BRAND-NEW CURTAIN RISE. ♪

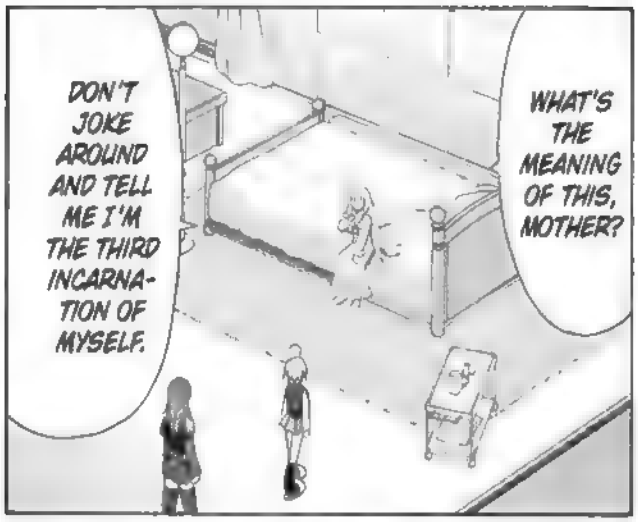
MENAGERIE 65: THE UNCHANGING WITCH, THE CAT'S MOMENT

MENAGERIE 64:
THE UNCHANGING WITCH, THE CAT'S MOMENT

KUESU-CHAN. KUESU-CHAN! WEREN'T WE GOING TO BEAT THE BAD OGRES TOGETHER?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I...
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO AND DIE?
YOU PROM-ISED ME YOU'D END THIS SAFELY...
I DIED...? WAIT, YUU-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...
WERE YOU LYING WHEN YOU SAID YOU'D GET MY BACK?
THEN WHY CAN'T WE FIGHT TOGETH-ER?
W-WELL, YUU-CHAN, YOU'RE STILL...
MROOOOOWR.
I declare, you are all talk.

Go ahead and perish there.
I will take care of all the young lord's needs.
Come, young lord. Now that that obstacle is no longer in our way...
Hi-mari ...
GABA (JUMP)
UWAAAAAAH!!

MY... HOME...
... AH...!
A DREAM ?
WHAT ON EARTH DID I...
Ah!
BA (WHIP)
YOU UP, MISS GRIMOIRE?
KUH HEE HEE
!
THAT DEEP WOUND... IS GONE?



*JUDECCA IS ONE OF THE FIVE RIVERS IN HADES ACCORDING TO GREEK MYTHOLOGY; CHARON IS THE FERRYMAN OF HADES.

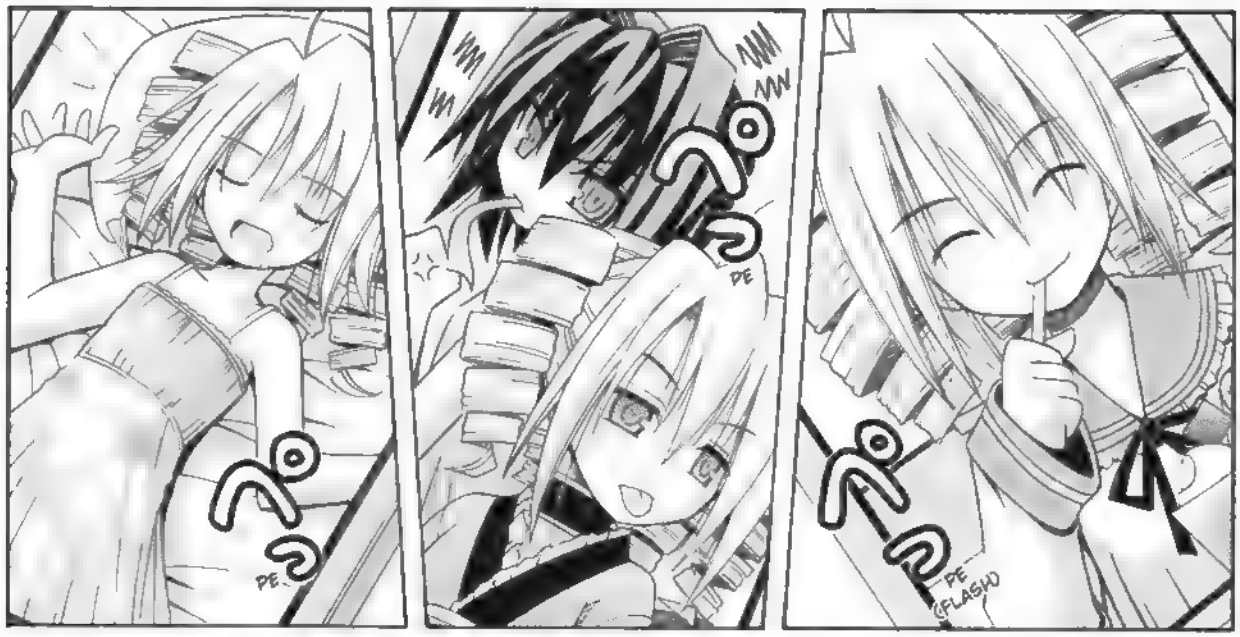
KUESU-CHAN, LET'S BE TOGETHER.
KUESU, WE'RE PARTNERS.
THAT'S RIGHT. WHAT MATTERS MOST TO ME IS THAT PROMISE.
KU... ESU?
BASA (FLAP)

...L-LOOK AT THAT! JUST LOOK AT THAT!
I NEVER BELIEVED IT FROM THE START! KUESU WOULD NEVER BE BEATEN THAT EASILY!
...
BASH!
BASH! (PAT)
KUH-HEE-HEE. BOTH HEAVEN AND HELL BORED HER, SO SHE CAME BACK HERE.
BORED ME?
BUT OF COURSE.
AFTER ALL, YUU-CHAN WASN'T THERE.
..THAT CHEESY LINE AND POSE...
HO HO HO!
OHHH HO HO!
SHE'S THE REAL KUESU WITHOUT A DOUBT.
BUT KUESU'S REALLY...
SHE'S REALLY...

KURO-ZAKURA, WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING!?
WHAT'S THIS DANGEROUS VIBE I'M GETTING FROM ABOVE!?
HOOO HO HO...
...!!
EKOU, GET AWAY!
!!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANWHERE. ♡
SHUBA (ZOOSH)
HYUOOO (WHOOOO)

OW!!
I FELL AGAIN! TwT
GO (BONK)
...!!
DON'T MOVE!
.....
ZUPO (POP)
ZUBABA (SPLAT)
TCH !!
WE CAN'T HAVE YOU DAMAGING THE PROPERTY
SO PLEASE DON'T MOVE.
I DON'T WANT ANY MORE ROUGH-HOUSING HERE AT SCHOOL.
KIIN (VWEEE)

!
KURO-ZAKU-RA...
THE FAIR-FACED NINE-TAILED FOX TAMA-MO-NO-MAE IS IN MY CUSTODY.
BUT SHE'S NOT THE NINE-TAILS YOU ONCE KNEW.
...AND EKOU, WAS IT?
RINKO.
I'VE GOT SOME SHOTS OF HER. WANNA TAKE A LOOK?
.....
...
WHAT ARE YOU SAY-ING?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "YOUR CUS-TODY"?
I KNEW IT'D COME TO THIS.


PE
PE
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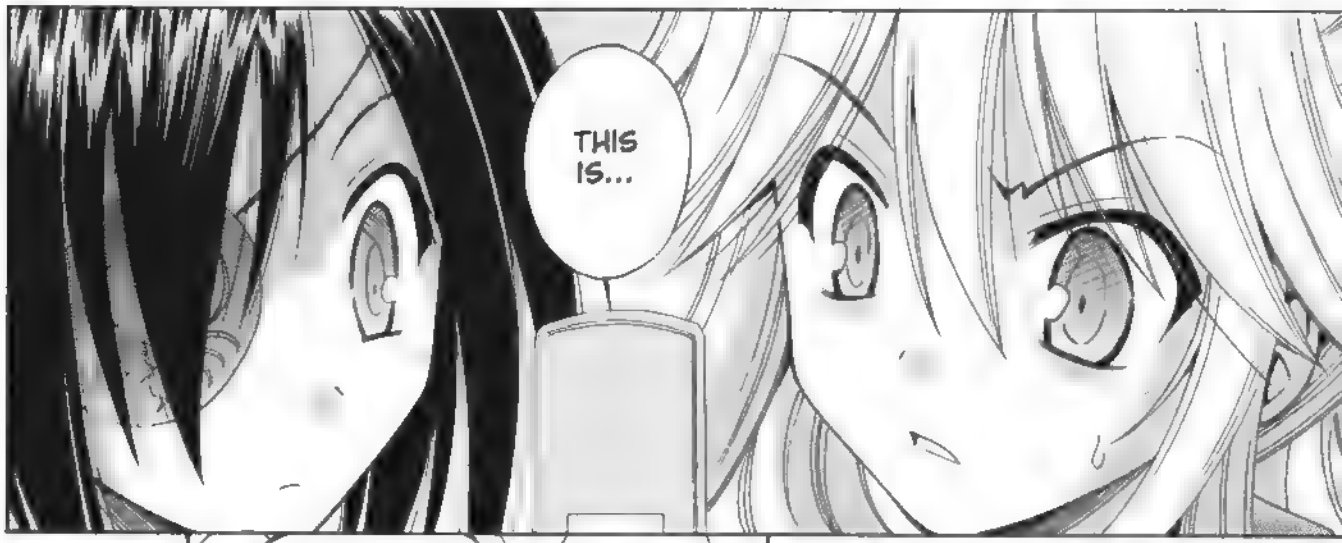
PE (FLASH)


THIS IS...

...SOME KIND OF FABRI-CATED CGI, ISN'T IT?
IT ISN'T. THAT WOULD BE POINT-LESS.
BESIDES, I DON'T HAVE THE SKILLS.
MAYBE EVEN A LOOK-ALIKE?
...HMPH. I GUESS THAT'S ALL WE'LL BE GETTING HERE.
SU (SWF)
...KU-ROZA-KURA!
DAN (TMP)

NEXT TIME, I'LL GIVE YOU A REAL LICKING, DEMON SLAYER!
AH HA HA!
GUIIN (ZWOOP)
!
PASHU (PSSHT)
AAH!
BON (BOOM)
HITSUGI TOLD ME MOST OF IT, BUT...
THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL BE LICKING YUU-CHAN IS ME
...WHAT'S THIS ABOUT HAVING THE NINE-TAILS IN YOUR CUSTODY?
TO (TMP)

ARE WE DOING SOME-THING NOT GOOD?
KUH HEE. NOPE, NOT GOOD AT ALL.
IT'S LIKE HOUSING A BOMB. IT'LL ONLY ADD TO YOUR DEMERIT FROM OUTSIDE TOO.
I OUGHT TO TELL TSUCHI-MIKADO RIGHT NOW...
SHEESH
KUH-HEE. BUT TAM-ING AND BREAKING HER MIGHT ALSO BE FUN.
WHICH IS IT?
MORE IMPOR-TANTLY!
YOU'RE REALLY KUESU, RIGHT?
BACK THEN...
...BACK THEN, YOU DISAP-PEARED WHILE IN MY ARMS...

OH, PLEASE. I'M NOT A GHOST, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.
I'VE GOT SKIN, AND BEAUTIFUL SKIN AT THAT.
I KNOW! WHY DON'T YOU GIVE ME A TIGHT SQUEEZE AND SEE FOR YOUR...
...SELF ...?
GYU (HUG)

THANK GOOD-NESS...!

I MEAN IT.
THANK GOOD-NESS...!
YUU-CHAN...?
OH, BOY. YOU THINK WE MIGHT BE IN THE WAY OF THIS HEART-WRENCHING REUNION? KUH-HEE-HEE...
GRRR
DEAL WITH IT. SENSE THE MOOD. I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT THIS TIME. WE THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD...

TH-THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR MAKING ME WORRY!
...YUU-CHAN, I'M GLAD, BUT... YOU'RE HURTING ME.
... YOU'RE RIGHT. I DON'T BLAME YOU.
DO YOU KNOW WHY SORCERERS LEAVE BEHIND BOOKS OF MAGIC?
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE...?

...ALL THE WISDOM, SKILLS, AND SECRET ARTS THAT THEY GAINED FROM THEIR RESEARCH WOULD BE LOST IN DARKNESS ...
BASICALLY, SORCERERS ARE THE KIND OF PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT TO TEACH OTHERS THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS.
BUT IF THEY DIDN'T TELL ANYBODY ...
I TAKE IT THEY AREN'T MAKING THESE RECORDS TO SERVE AS TEXTBOOKS FOR FUTURE MAGICIANS... ARE THEY?
OF COURSE NOT.

...HAD SURVIVED SEVERAL ATTEMPTS AT DESTRUCTION AS A BANNED BOOK AND FORCED A SEVERE BURDEN ON WHOMEVER SHOULD CHALLENGE HERSELF WITH READING IT. FOR IT INCLUDED WITHIN ITS TEXTS A BLACK MAGIC THAT COULD BE CALLED A CURSE.
THEN YOU GET IT. THE TEXTS OF TRUTH THAT YOU CAME IN CONTACT WITH IN ENGLAND...

THEY LEAVE BEHIND BOOKS OF MAGIC TO SERVE AS PROOF OF THEIR EXISTENCE.
...MEANING THAT THEIR EXISTENCE WOULD FADE AWAY.
.....

AS A JINGUUJI WOMAN, YOU POSSESS A JINGUUJI SEAL THAT I REGULARLY CHECK ON...
I REALIZED IT WHEN I CHECKED THAT SEAL UPON YOUR RETURN FROM ENGLAND.
YOU DON'T MEAN...!
I REALIZED THE CHANGE YOUR BODY HAD UNDERGONE.
WAIT... MOTHER...
ACCORDING TO THE CRAZY WISE MAN WHO CREATED THAT MAGICAL BOOK, IT SHOULD NOT HAVE PERSISTED.
IT POSSESSED SO GREAT AN AMOUNT OF INFORMATION THAT TO KNOW IT WOULD BE THE SAME AS DAMNING YOURSELF TO DIE...FOR ONE TO READ IT WOULD REQUIRE A SECOND SELF.
ONE WHO COULD INHABIT THE SAME SPACE AS THE ORIGINAL. ONE WHO WOULD SERVE AS PROOF OF ONE'S EXISTENCE.
PERHAPS THAT IS THE SAME AS THE BOOK OF MAGIC ITSELF. SOMETHING TO BE PROTECTED.

KUESU. YOU ARE A PROOF THAT CANNOT BE LOST. AS A SECOND TEXT OF TRUTH...
...YOU HAVE BEEN MADE A BEING FORBIDDEN FROM DYING OR AGING.
HA-HA... THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. SUCH ALCHEMY CAN'T EXIST...
SUCH A CURSE...

I WASN'T ONLY TALKING ABOUT A HEART THAT CAN LOVE SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE BOY.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, THAT YOU'RE MISSING SOME-THING.
YOUR TIME TO LIVE AS A HUMAN. THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE LOST.
IT'S YOUR LIFE AS A HUMAN.
THE MOMENT I DIED...
...THAT CURSE WAS SET INTO MOTION.
KUESU. YOU'VE SURPASSED MANKIND. ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL? KUH-HEE-HEE...

KUE-SU?
GYUU (HUG)
.....
COME ON! HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO CARRY ON FOR!?
YOU SNEAKY LITTLE
DIDN'T YOU SENSE THE MOOD?
KUH HEE HEE..
GIN (GLARE)
YUU-CHAN, I...

OMAMORI HIMARI

THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL BE LICKING YUU-CHAN IS ME

A VICTORY PARTY??
YES, THAT'S RIGHT!
TO CELEBRATE EVERYONE'S RETURN HOME AND VICTORY, I WOULD LIKE TO HOST A SMALL PARTY.
...I WAS UNABLE TO OFFER ANY HELP DURING THE BATTLE.
SO I'D AT LEAST LIKE TO REWARD EVERYONE (PARTICULARLY, YUUTO-SAN ♥) FOR THEIR EFFORTS.
THE FEE WILL BE 3,000 YEN PER PERSON. ♡
YOU;RE] CHARGING] FOR]IT!?]
PEACE!

MENAGERIE 66:
THE TRIGGER TO THE CAT'S ACCIDENTAL FIRING

GUH... HUFF!
... HUFF! HUFF! HUFF!
UGH... GAH...
HUFF
HAAH ...
HUFF!
UUH ...
YORO (STAGGER)
YORO
ZZZ
HAH ... AH.
GUH HAH ...!
BIKUN (THROB)

TAKE IT. TAKE IT. TAKE IT. TAKE IT.

.....
もそっ
MOSO (SCOOT)
HI-MARI...
KUH...
NN...
...UGH!
HUFF!
HUFF...

OKAY, EVERY-ONE!

IN HONOR OF EVERYBODY'S VICTORY, PLEASE ENJOY YOURSELVES TO YOUR HEARTS' CONTENT TODAY!
I GUESS WE COULD DO WITH-OUT FOR-MALITIES, AS THEY SAY?
THOUGH WE WOULDN'T WANT TO GET TOO RUDE NOW!

YAHOOOOOO!!
YAY...
FOOD!

YOW !?
GUN (YANK)

WELL, I DON'T BLAME HER...
I GUESS IT'S A LITTLE TOO SOON
THE CLASS PRESI-DENT WAS INVITED TOO, BUT SHE DE-CLINED.

LOOK, LIZ. A VICTORY PARTY'S ALL FINE AND WELL, BUT...
HMPH!
...WHY DO I HAVE TO BE WORKING?
UH, WELL, YOU SEE... IT'D BE TOO MUCH FOR ME ALONE. IT'S LIKE THEY SAY, "I'LL TAKE WHATEVER HELP I CAN GET."
HEH!
I WILL BREAK YOU.
AAAWWW! YUUTO-SAN, HELP ME! HIMARI-SAN'S BEING MEAN!
HEY!! DON'T SMASH YOUR CHEST INTO HIM, YOU PERVY CUP!!
※11 (GYUUUU (SQUEEZE))
しゅうう

I WILL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO SERVE YOU...
MMMM!
BUT YOU CAME BACK HOME IN ONE PIECE.
LIZ...
I MUST SAY, I'M JUST HAPPY YOU'RE SAFE...
MUGYU (MOOSH)
I WAS SO WORRIED.
GYON (ZASH)
NOOO!
GOON (WHOOSH)
WHOA! THAT'S AS FAR AS YOU GET, YOU OCCIDENTAL AYAKASHI!
AS LONG AS I, AGEHA-SAN, AM AROUND, I CAN'T LET YOU DO WHATEVER YOU LIKE!
ESPE-CIALLY WHEN YOU TAKE A SEXUAL TURN!!

HAVING FOUGHT A LIFE-OR-DEATH BATTLE...
...YOU'RE WONDERING, "IS SURVIVING AS THE VICTOR ANYTHING WORTH CELEBRATING?" ...AREN'T YOU?
WHAT'S WITH YOU? YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING SO GLOOMY.
AL- ..... WAYS. IS IT?
RIN-KO?
I KNOW WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.
...YOU'RE SHARP, RINKO.
EAT UP, AGEHA! EVERYTHING'S DELICIOUS!
FEASTING AFTER A WIN IS PAR FOR THE COURSE JUST LOOK AT SASA
HUUH? THAT'S ALL?
BUT I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY THAT.

HOW HONORABLE. IS THAT YOUR PERSONA AS THE HEAD OF THE AMAKAWA FAMILY?
I WASN'T HELPFUL AT ALL.
D-DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT
FABULOUS YOU LOOK FABULOUS IN YOUR UNIFORM
HUFF!
HUFF!
I SHOULD BE SHOWING MY APPRECIATION TO HIMARI, KUESU, AND AGEHA.
HOOOH ...
YUU-TO...
.....
EVEN THOUGH I'D MADE UP MY MIND TO FIGHT, THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT'S STILL HESITANT.
AT THIS RATE, IT'LL BE JUST AS SHUTEN SAID. SOMEBODY'S GOING TO BE IN DANGER ALL BECAUSE OF ME...!
WHOA?
GA (GRAB)

DON'T STRESS YOURSELF OUT. IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE.
YOU'RE NOT MEAN ENOUGH. HAVE CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF, EVEN IF IT MAKES YOU LOOK LIKE A KID.

AFTER ALL, WHAT I WANT AS A REWARD ISN'T THE BLOOD OF THE HEAD OF THE AMAKAWA FAMILY.
IT'S *YOUR* BLOOD.

JUST THE SAME AS THE CAT MONSTER AND TWILIGHT MOON, RIGHT?
AGEHA ...

OOPS. THE GREAT AGEHA-SAMA SAID SOMETHING THAT'S NOT LIKE HER.
BET-TER DRINK UP!

WHY'RE YOU SO LATE?
SHI-ZUKU.
I CONCUR WITH THE HINOENMA THIS ONCE... YOU KNOW.

G-GOOD JOB...
WELL...
...AND I'M QUITE UNHAPPY ABOUT PREPARING FOOD FOR AN ENEMY LIKE THE NINE-TAILS...YOU KNOW!
THE OWNER'S HERE, SO KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE SNAKE TONGUE.

ZZZ
WELL, THIS TIME... THERE'S NO REASON WHY SHE SHOULD ATTEND A VICTORY PARTY FOR A FIGHT SHE LOST, SO...
IT MIGHT SPARK SOME KIND OF MEMORY
I GOT HER TO EAT A TON OF FOOD LACED WITH PLENTY OF SLEEPING DRUGS, UNTIL SHE FINALLY FELL ASLEEP... YOU KNOW.

YOU'RE SO PRE-OCCUPIED WITH LIVING IN HARMONY ...
THIS STOOL'S TOO TALL YOU KNOW
...THAT RECOGNIZ-ING SOME-ONE AS AN ENEMY...
...TAKES YOU TOO LONG...YOU KNOW.

...THAT STUPID WITCH GAVE HER LIFE TO DEFEAT SHUTEN... YOU KNOW.
SO I SHOULD BE THE ONE TO TAKE CARE OF THE NINE-TAILS...
SIWA (DRIP)
...UH, SHIZUKU, LISTEN...
ABOUT THAT STUPID WITCH...
HOO-HO-HO-HO-HO! WHAT'S THIS? I CAME BECAUSE I HEARD THERE WAS GOING TO BE A VICTORY PARTY, BUT...
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?
KEH!
HMM?
...THE AIR IS ABSO-LUTELY THICK WITH AYAKASHI!
MY DRESS WILL REEK OF AYAKASHI!
BISHA (SPLISH)
GIN (ZING)
BAN (BADUM)

ZA
(FWISH)
PAAN
(PAAA)
GYAN
(ZASH)
SHIN
(HUSH)

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE COME HERE LOOKING GORGEOUS.
...WHAT DID YOU COME HERE LOOKING FOR?
ぽた PATA (DRIP) ぽた PATA
YOU KNOW!
BEN
HO- AUH!
BEN (BANG)
NICE INTER- VEN- TION, HIMARI
OH, BOY...
ゴゴゴ (R-R-R-RUMBLE)
OKAY, I'M SORRY.
YOU KNOW
WE MAY BE DROPPING THE FORMALITIES TODAY, BUT ANY QUARRELING OR FIGHTING IS PROHIB- ITED, YOU INGRATES.

BUT I KNOW FOR SURE THAT WHAT RINKO AND I ARE AIMING FOR WAS THERE.
EVERY-ONE'S GOT THEIR OWN THINGS ON THEIR MINDS.
HUMANS AND AYAKASHI INHABIT-ING THE SAME SPACE.
WHAT IS IT, YOUNG LORD?
YOU'RE SMIRKING TO YOUR-SELF.
THE SCENE OF EV-ERYDAY LIFE.

IT'S THE ATMO-SPHERE OF KINDNESS AND FUN.
HUH, ME? WAS I SMILING THAT MUCH?
WHILE VERY NATURAL, AT THE SAME TIME...
...IT FEELS SO TREMULOUS AND FLEETING.
...WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK TO ME ABOUT, KUESU?
.....
YES, BUT YOU'LL BE CHARGED FOR IT
HEY! HEY! CAN WE ORDER MORE?
WHAT!?
本日 貸し切り なんでちゅ～
ごめんね

SIGN: THE RESTAURANT IS ALL RESERVED TODAY. SORRY!

...I DO.
BUT SINCE IT MIGHT BE SOMETHING YOU DON'T WANT TO TOUCH UPON, I'VE STAYED QUIET.
YUU-CHAN, THERE IS NOTHING I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO TOUCH THAT HAS TO DO WITH ME.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO ASK ME?
...THEN AGAIN, A GIRL'S GOTTA KEEP HER SECRETS SECRET.
!
MY MOTHER... IS NO LONGER HUNG UP ON THE AMAKAWAS ALL OF A SUDDEN.

SHE USED TO BE SO INSISTENT, CLAIMING THAT IT WAS FOR THE SAKE OF OUR FAMILY...BUT IT SEEMS I HAVE NO NEED FOR IT ANY LONGER.
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I'M STILL SUCH A NOVICE AT THIS DEMON-SLAYER THING...
THAT'S RIGHT. KUESU'S MOTHER WANTED THE BLOOD OF THE AMAKA- WAS FOR OUR ABILITY-ENHANCING POWERS...
HUH ?
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, YUU-CHAN.
IT'S BECAUSE I'VE BECOME PECU-LIAR.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN ...?

I'VE BECOME AN IMMORTAL.
IT'S NOTHING BIG. JUST THAT I CAN'T DIE...

FROM NOW ON, I CAN CONTINUE MOVING FORWARD FOREVER WITH MY WITCH'S BLOOD.
NOT EVEN A GOD OF DEATH WOULD LOOK TWICE AT ME.
THIS IS MY PUNISH-MENT FOR PURSUING POWER.
MY JUST DESSERTS FOR NOT THINKING BEFORE I PULLED THAT STUNT.
I'M A TRUE WITCH NOW. ONE WHO DOESN'T NEED THE HELP OF THE AMAKAWA BLOOD...
HA-HA-HA... IT'S HILARI-OUS.
I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO GAIN.
KUE-SU...
MY TIME'S BEEN PUT TO A STOP.

I CAN'T ENJOY THE SAME TIME WITH YOU.
I CAN'T EVEN GROW UP WITH YOU.
KUE-SU!
I DON'T NEED YOU TO COVER MY BACK NOW.
AFTER ALL, I CAN'T DIE!
THIS IS! THIS IS JUST LIKE!
THIS MAKES ME...!!
KUESU, THAT'S ENOUGH! STOP IT!
LOWER THAN AN AYAKASHI!!

CURSE THAT LIZ. WORKING THIS CAT TO THE BONE...

...
YUU-CHAN.

YOUNG...
LORD...
DOKUN
(THUMP)

I'M!
I'M...!!
THIS IS NO DIFFERENT THAN BEING AN AYAKASHI!
IT'S WORSE EVEN! LOWER THAN THAT!
THAT'S EN-OUGH!
GASHI (GRAB)
STOP IT!!

...!
...KUESU, YOU'RE STILL KUESU.
THAT'S ALL THAT MAT-TERS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A WITCH OR IMMORTAL.
KUESU IS STILL KUESU.
THAT HASN'T CHANGED!!
... YUU...

MENAGERIE 67:
THE TRIGGER TO THE END OF THE CAT'S CONFUSION

I KNEW IT. THE YOUNG LORD...AND KUESU...
BUT...
WHY...IS THE YOUNG LORD... HE'S...
IT'S NOT ME...
SHE DIED.
ドクン
DOKUN
DOKUN
DOKUN

WAIT... THIS IS WHAT GRANDPA GEN AND GRANDMA SAWA WANTED... I...
HOW LONG HAVE I WANTED IT? WAS I HOPING FOR COMPENSA-TION? I'M AN AYAKASHI, REMEMBER?
THIS... THIS IS RIGHT.
THAT ALL ENDED...
...THE MOMENT...
...SHE DIED.
THE YOUNG LORD IS MY PREY.

バタン
BATAN
(SLAM)
WHAT...
WAS I JUST
THINKING...?

AND WHEN IT'S AN UNATTAINABLE ONE, OUTSIDE THE GIVEN BOUNDARIES, IT IS ALL THE STRONGER AND TABOO.
!
...AN UNSPEAKABLE DESIRE IS LIKE A BUBBLE THAT FLOATS TO THE SURFACE OF THE WORLD.
QUIET.
BUT IN YOUR CASE, IT WOULD PUT THE BOY IN AN AWFUL PREDICAMENT.
I SAID BE QUIET.
BEING ROUSED BY LUST IS NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY FOR HUMANS OR AYAKASHI.
CAT GOD-KUN.
ARE YOU STILL GOING TO GO FOR IT?
KUH HEE HEE
OH YES. AND THERE'S THAT OTHER ISSUE.

AREN'T YOU ENTERTAINING SOME RATHER NEGATIVE FEELINGS? OR RATHER, BEING ENTERTAINED BY THEM?
IF YOU'RE DERIVING PLEASURE FROM THEM, THEN YOU'LL BE THE NEXT *NINE-TAILS.*
ZAZA (SSSSH)

!
PACHU (SPLISH)
MIZU-CHI...
I THOUGHT FIGHT-ING WAS PROHIB-ITED TODAY... YOU KNOW.
KOOOOO (WHOOOO)
CAT.
SHE'S A DEMON SLAYER... IF YOU'D PURPOSELY CLAWED HER, YOU'D BE ENDANGERING YUUTO'S POSITION AS WELL, YOU KNOW.
DON'T YOU GET IT? ...YOU KNOW.

PUR-
POSE-
LY...?
GIN
(GLARE)
I WONDER, WHICH SIDE WOULD THE YOUNG LORD TAKE?
HMPH.
AMUSING.
...
REALLY THE CAT?
...
...ARE YOU...
...YOU KNOW.

IT WAS ONLY IN JEST.
TELL LIZ I'M RETIRING FOR THE NIGHT.
.....
WHAT A CRUEL GREEN SPRING. KUH-HEE-HEE. I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.
...YOU HAVE NO REAL GOALS AND ONLY OBSERVE.
...NEITHER THE CAT NOR I CAN DEFEAT YOU.
KUH HEE?
BUT...
SO DON'T RUN YOUR MOUTH OFF LIKE YOU'RE SO MUCH BETTER... YOU KNOW.

KUH HEE HEE...
I'LL TAKE THAT AS ADVICE. THE ROUND-ABOUT KIND.
...YUU-CHAN.
HMM?
YUU-CHAN, I'M ALL RIGHT NOW.
KUESU.
I REALLY WENT TO PIECES THERE, DIDN'T I?
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, I AM WHO I AM.
I AM THE GREAT KUESU JINGUUJI-SAMA!

YEAH, THAT'S THE SPIRIT! KUESU IS KUESU.
HEH HEH HEH.
WHAT IS IT?
HUH? OH, NOTHING.
WELL, LET'S GET BACK INSIDE BEFORE SASA EATS EVERYTHING.

I SHOULDN'T EXPECT THINGS TO GO BACK TO NORMAL...
...JUST BECAUSE THE NINE-TAILS AND SHUTEN HAVE BEEN DEFEATED.
THE FIGHT ONLY CHANGED THINGS.
NOW THAT I KNOW THAT SHE'S ONLY...
...PUTTING ON A BOLD FRONT.
I CAN'T ASK KUESU FOR ANY MORE HELP IN ME BECOMING A DEMON SLAYER.
THERE YOU ARE. WHERE'D YOU TWO GO?
CHURURUN (SLUUURP)
DON'T ASK SOME-THING SO VULGAR.
WE WERE ONLY TALKING ABOUT OUR LOVE IN THE DARK. ♡
WHAT! DID YOU! SAY!! YOU! FIEND!?
GATA (CLATTER)

AND MADE ME REALIZE THAT...
Young lord. Come to the roof of the condo.
Alone.
"WIND VOICE."
THE ABILITY FOR AN AYAKASHI TO TRANSMIT HER VOICE TO A DESIGNATED TARGET FAR FROM HER.
HIMARI'S NEVER USED THAT WITH ME BEFORE.
SOME-THING'S DIFFERENT.

SOME-
THING'S
NOT RIGHT.
HYUOOO
(WHOOOO)
YOU'RE
LATE.
...THIS
PLACE IS
OFF-LIMITS
EVEN TO
PEOPLE
WHO LIVE IN
THE BUILD-
ING.
THEN
IT'S MOST
SUITABLE FOR
A CLANDESTINE
MEETING SUCH
AS THIS.
WELL,
YOUNG
LORD?
ZA
(ZSH)

!!
BETWEEN KUESU AND MYSELF...
...WHICH WILL YOU TAKE?
TH-THAT'S NOT...
I AM NOT SUGGESTING THAT YOU SHOULD THEN ABANDON ONE OF US.
BUT WHICH WOULD YOU TAKE?
WHAT ...?
... SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE TO CHOOSE ...
ZARI (SCUFF)
ZAR

AMH!
GU (GRAB)
...NN!
チュプ CHUPU (SMECK)
NNPH...
...!?
MMPH!
NN... NN!
チュ CHU (SMOOCH)

NN... ♡
CHU
CHUKU
NN...!
NN-FH!
CHUKU
HAAH ...NN!
CHU
NNFH!
GUNYUN (MOOSH)
AHM ... NN.
KUCHI (SMECK)
NN-N!
PICHU (MOOCH)
UH... NN.
KUCHU (MWA)
CHU
NNF-HH... NN.
CHUPU
AH ...
PECHA
GYU (HUG)
UUH ... NN.
CHUPI (SMOOCH)
SUPAN (SLIP)

WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG, I WAS ALWAYS BY YOUR SIDE, YOUNG LORD.
GO (BANG)
KA-HAH!
SO I KNOW YOUR HABITS, PERSONALITY, AND TASTES.
TAPUN (MOOSH)
PIKU (TWITCH)
I KNOW ALL... NN... ABOUT YOU.
HA-HMM...
CHUPO (MWA)
KUCHU (SMACK)
HI... HI-MARI...
PUCHU (SMECK)
NN...!
CHU (SMOOCH)

WAI ... NN!
CHU
HOO ... NN.
KUCHI (SMECK)
AH ...!
MUNI (MOOSH)
GUNYU (GROPE)
AAH ... NN.
CHU
NN!
SO...
ZU (SCOOT)
PHOO... NNFH.
PUCHA (SMECK)

HIMARI!
YOU ARE MY MAN.
KNOCK IT OFF!!
THIS ISN'T YOU!
HI-MARI!

KUH... KUH KUH KUH.
KUH... HEH.
HEH HA HA HA.
YURA (SWAY)
HIMARI, YOU'RE...
HA HA HA.
HA HA.

ZA
ZA (RUSSSTLE)
ZA
H-HEY!
BA (HOP)
ZOKU (CHILL)
...I SAW OF HIMARI.
THAT WAS THE LAST...

MENAGERIE 68: ONE OF THE BROKEN CAT'S SHADOWS APPEARS IN THE MIRROR

She'll have to be dealt with one way or another... but...
Though the Nine-Tails looks to have become harmless, that doesn't mean that the nega-tive demon powers within her have zeroed out.

SHE'LL REACT TO THE SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION AND HAS A PLEASURE-SEEKING ATTITUDE ABOUT HER.
SHE DOESN'T HAVE A COLLAR AND WON'T LISTEN TO HER OWNER.
THE BIGGER ISSUE IS THE CRIMSON BLADE, THE CAT GOD-KUN.
...THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE'S GOT A "GET OUT OF JAIL FREE" CARD.
SHE'S AWARE OF IT HER-SELF AND RESISTING, BUT...
SHE'S START-ING DOWN THE PATH TO BEING THE NEXT NINE-TAILS.

IT'S BETTER THAN MY FAMILY SUFFERING A BLOW THAT WILL LAST A LIFETIME.
I'M TRUSTING YOU TO KEEP AN EYE ON THEIR ACTIVITIES.
Don't you think that'll only make the Amakawa boy hate you?
KUH HEE...
IF NEED BE, I'LL TAKE ACTION MYSELF.
IT WOULD BE CRUEL TO PUT ALL THE RESPONSIBILITY ON HIM.
...THERE YOU HAVE IT. WHEN ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ONE OF OUR DEMON SLAYERS, WE HANDLE IT OURSELVES.
I SEE.
I'LL TRY TO HOLD BACK UNIT 4 OF THE DEFENSE BRANCH AS BEST I CAN.
THAT'LL ENDANGER YOUR POSITION, KABURAGI-SAN.
DON'T SAY THAT.
IT MAY BE FOR ONLY A LITTLE WHILE, BUT I'M SUFFERING FROM A GUILTY CONSCIENCE OVER WHAT HAPPENED TO MISS KUESU JINGUUJI.

MENAGERIE 68: ONE OF THE BROKEN CAT'S SHADOWS APPEARS IN THE MIRROR

IT'S BEEN SEVERAL DAYS SINCE HIMARI DISAP-PEARED.
HIMARI'S NEVER ONCE LEFT WITHOUT TELLING ME WHY...
WHI-WHI-WHI-WHAT'S THE MEAN-ING OF THIS!? WHY WON'T HIMARI COME HOME!?
GRRR!
PLEASE CALM DOWN, KAYA-SAMA.
WAS IT YOU!? IT'S YOUR FAULT, ISN'T IT!? FIND HER AND FIND HER NOW!
GAKU
GAKU (SHAKE)
NEVER MIND! I'LL FIND HER MY-SELF!
KAYA DOESN'T HAVE TO TELL ME.
IT'S MY FAULT HIMARI'S GONE.
THAT NIGHT, HIMARI WAS CLEARLY ACTING STRANGE.

NO MISTAKING IT. HIMARI ...
...IS BEING SWALLOWED UP BY IT.
A BEING THAT SHOULD BE CALLED A CAT GOD AND WHO ABSORBED THE NINE-TAILS' EVIL, DEMONIC POWERS.
SHE WAS THE BLACK HIMARI I'D SEEN AT THE TSUCHIMIKADO ESTATE.
WHERE ARE YOU...
...HIMARI?
!!
HELLO... RINKO?
Don't "Rinko?" me! Where are you now?
The cat princess isn't at school either, so are you two playing hooky and goofing off!?
I'M NOT!! ...LISTEN, THE TRUTH IS...
-brrr-
-brrr-

DAMMIT... WHERE DID HIMARI GO...
YUUTO!
!
IS IT TRUE HIMARI HASN'T COME HOME?
YEAH, I'VE SEARCHED, BUT I JUST CAN'T FIND HER. I DON'T THINK SHE'S LEFT TAKAMIYA, THOUGH.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHERE SHE MIGHT BE!? ...THOUGH I'M SURE YOU'VE ALREADY LOOKED.
ANY IDEA...

THAT REMINDS ME. ALTHOUGH WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER SO LONG, I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE HIMARI WOULD GO.
AS THOUGH SHE BELONGED BY MY SIDE.
EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS SO CLOSE...
...THE MOMENT SHE'S GONE, I'M AT A COMPLETE LOSS.
SHE MAY HAVE BEEN ACTING WEIRD, BUT NOIHARA-SAN IS YOUR GUARDIAN, AMAKAWA-KUN.
I'M SURE SHE'S SOMEWHERE WHERE SHE CAN KEEP AN EYE ON YOU. WE HAVE TO FIND HER.
MS. PRESI-DENT...?
I FEEL RESPON-SIBLE TOO.
I...WAS AFRAID OF NOIHARA-SAN.

ONCE I KNEW ABOUT HER, I ONLY HAD THE OPTIONS OF ACCEPTING HER OR REJECTING HER, AND I...
AFTER WHAT HAPPENED, I'VE BEEN SO AFRAID THAT I'VE BEEN AVOIDING NOIHARA-SAN.
BUT ME? I COULDN'T DO IT.
YOU GUYS ARE SO AMAZING FOR BEING ABLE TO HANDLE THE TRUTH.
NO.
YEAH. WE'RE THE ONES WHO DIDN'T EXPLAIN THINGS TO YOU.
WAIT, MS. PRESI-DENT. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
YUU...
BUT I WANT ANOTHER SHOT...
...AT BECOMING NOIHARA-SAN'S FRIEND.

ALL RIGHT, I'M SURE YOU CAN!
SO FIRST LET'S FIND HER!!
...RIGHT.
PI (FWIP)
YOU SAID IT!
HMM-MMM?
AMAKAWA, WHO'RE YOU LOOKIN' FOR?
GO (WHOOSH)
(DO STOMP)
OOF!

TA...
...
TAMA!?
-SAN!?
—...? WHO'RE YOU GUYS?
KYU (SQUEAK)
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, WALKING AROUND OUTSIDE...
SHIZU-KU'S...

?
!!
DON (SPLOOSH)
ZA
ZA (SSSSHHHH)
ZA
YUU-TO.
THINGS HAVE GOTTEN BAD! ...YOU KNOW!
SHIZU-KU!?
AA
AA
WHAT HAP-PENED !?
AH... WELL, IT'S NOT BAD FOR ME...YOU KNOW.
BUT THEY'VE SHOWN UP AND WANT US TO DISPOSE OF THE DUMB FOX...YOU KNOW.
"THEY"...?
JOB WELL DONE CONQUER-ING THE FAIR-FACED NINE-TAILED FOX AND SHUTEN-DOUJI.
ZA (SKUFF)

YUUTO AMAKAWA.
THOUGH YOU HAD HELP FROM KUESU JINGUUJI, I NEVER EXPECTED YOU TO COME THIS FAR.
KIN (TING)
VUN (VRRR)
YOU'RE ONE OF THE KAGAMI-MORIS...
KASURI.

WH-WHAT...
A...A SHRINE MAID-EN...
WHOA
WITH TWO COLORED EYES!
YUUTO, YOU DON'T MEAN THIS PERSON'S ALSO...
A THIRD RANK-ING... DEMON SLAY-ER.
ばいん
BAIN (BAJUNGA)
...WHAT'S A SHRINE MAIDEN WHO USES MIRROR-SEALING TECHNIQUES DOING HERE?
YOU KNOW.
?
THEY'RE ENOR-MOUS!!
...WHY DO DEMON SLAYERS ALWAYS HAVE SUCH HUGE RACKS!?

THOUGH AFTER WHAT WE DID TO HIMARI AT THAT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION, I UNDERSTAND YOU'D BE ON YOUR GUARD.
PLEASE DON'T BE SO DEFEN-SIVE.
YOU MEAN TAMA-SAN?
HUH?
BUT TODAY... YOU APPEAR TO BE AT A LOSS.
SO I'VE COME HERE IN REGARD TO THAT NINE-TAILS.
WHAT WE DID WAS TERRIBLY RUDE.
SO YOU'VE COME HERE WITH ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY, EH...
THEN I WON'T BUTT IN *THIS ONCE.*
YUU-TO!?
WAIT JUST A MINUTE. SHE MAY BE A BAD FOX, BUT NOW SHE'S JUST AN INNOCENT LITTLE GIRL, SEE?
SU (SWF)

THIS ISN'T OUT OF RE-SPONSIBIL-ITY. HIS CHARITY ISN'T OUT OF KINDNESS. IT'S HER PUNISH-MENT...YOU KNOW.
GRHK ...
THIS ISN'T LIKE COMING TO PICK UP A STRAY DOG OR CAT, RINKO.
IF SOMETHING WERE TO HAPPEN... WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO RECOVER FROM IT.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT ARE YOU GOING TO PUT ONE OF YOUR SEALS ON HER?
INDEED. THAT...
FUOOO (VOOOOM)
...IS UP TO THE MIRROR TO DECIDE.

KIN
(TING)
IIIII
(VWEEEE)
.....
...!?

THIS IS...
WHAT IS IT?
?
THIS REALLY IS... TAMAMO-NO-MAE, ISN'T SHE?
THIS NINE-TAILS DOES NOT HAVE ENOUGH EVIL, DEMONIC POWERS TO WARRANT BEING MIRROR SEALED.
PETA (PLOP)
WELL, THE REFUSE THAT'S LEFT OF HER AT LEAST... YOU KNOW.
にや NYA (SNEER)
WHAT'D SHE TELL YOU?
... NOTHING WORTH MEN-TIONING.
!
SO IT'S JUST AS HITSUGI YAKOUIN SAID ...

THIS IS...
A MIRROR?
PLEASE PLACE IT SOMEWHERE CONSPICUOUS IN YOUR HOME.
AND REFLECT THE NINE-TAILS IN IT AT LEAST THREE TIMES A DAY.
!
すっ……
SU (SWF)
THAT SHOULD BE ENOUGH TO SUPPRESS HER.
WAIT, YOU BIG-BOOBED SHRINE MAIDEN! IF HE SETS THAT UP, MY POWERS WILL BE AFFECTED TOO...YOU KNOW.
STOP SKIMPING ON YOUR WORK AND ANNIHILATE THIS NINE-TAILS!
ARE THOSE GIANT KNOCKERS ONLY FOR DECORATION!? YOU KNOW!!
WHA...?
ぽよん
POYON (BOUNCE)
WH-WHAT ON EARTH? YOU RUDE SNAKE GIRL!
YUUTO AMAKAWA! JUST HOW MANY AYAKASHI DO YOU KEEP COMPANY WITH...!
.....

???
I DON'T GET IT
Y-YOU'RE PRETTY UNLUCKY ...
... FOR A WHILE AT LEAST?
...I DON'T QUITE GET IT, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SHE WON'T BE DISAP-PEARING ...
HEY.
YOU CAME ABOUT HIMARI, DIDN'T YOU?
YOU DIDN'T REALLY COME ABOUT THIS.

OOOO
(WHOOOO)
OW...
ZUKI
(THROB)
GHR...
HNGH!
DESTROY.
DESTROY.
DESTROY.
DESTROY.
DESTROY.
DESTROY.

HUFF!
THIS IS BAD... MY BODY FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN RIPPED APART... I...
I... I'M NOT MYSELF...
HUFF!
BIKU (TWITCH)
BIKU
YOUNG... LORD.
GAN (BANG)
ZUKI (THROB)
ARGH!
...DEAR, OH, DEAR. I CAN'T WATCH. ONCE A NAUGHTY CAT, ALWAYS A NAUGHTY CAT.
HUFF!
HUFF!

ZA SSSSHHH
THAT'S THE SPIRIT.
IT'S THE KAGAMI-MORI... LAPDOG.
WHAT HAVE YOU COME FOR?
ZA
YOU'VE CALLED ME THAT THREE TIMES ALREADY
YOU NAUGHTY CAT.
ZA

I SEE NOW... THERE IS NO WAY YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN ...
SHE CAME TOO, DIDN'T SHE...?
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
MY SISTER'S GONE TO CHECK ON THE NINE-TAILS.
THE YOUNG LORD...
...WILL NOT BE PUNISHED, WILL HE?
YORO (SWAY)
HMMM.
AFTER ALL THAT HAPPENED, YOU'RE STILL WORRIED ABOUT THAT GUY?
GASHA (CLANG)
HOW ADMIRABLE.

DON'T WORRY.
THE ONE WHO WILL BE PUNISHED IS YOU.
KIN (TING)

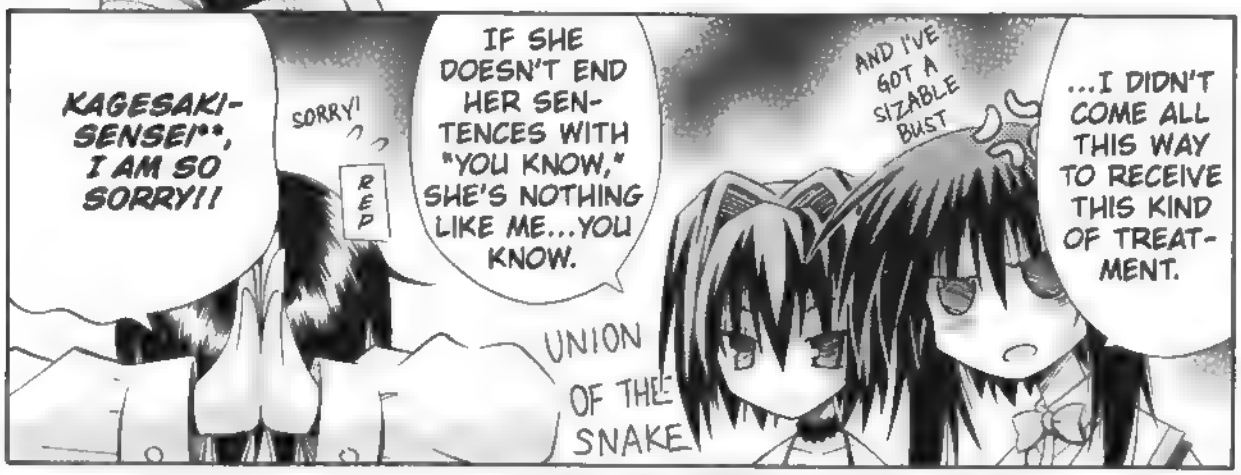
©NAMORI

THEY'RE ENOR-MOUS!!

I...I DIDN'T WANT THIS.
THE FIRST THING THE YOUNG LORD BOUGHT ME WASN'T ACTUALLY A DRESS.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!
IT WAS A COLLAR. BUT THAT WOULD'VE KILLED THE STORY!

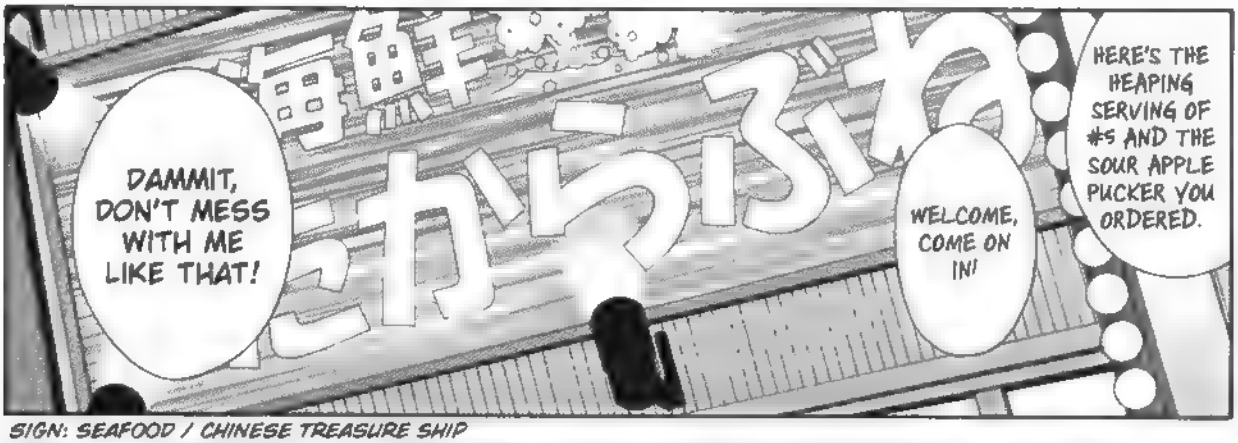
MENAGERIE 68.5: THE CAT & COMPANY'S SKETCHBOOK ☆ REVENGE

*"TSUNDERE" IS AN ANIME/MANGA TERM THAT DESCRIBES A CHARACTER WHO IS INITIALLY COLD AND HOSTILE, BUT GRADUALLY SHOWS HIS OR HER WARMER SIDE. DERIVED FROM THE WORDS "TSUN-TSUN," WHICH MEANS CROSS OR BAD TEMPERED, AND "DERE-DERE," WHICH MEANS LOVEY-DOVEY.


KAGESAKI-SENSEI**, I AM SO SORRY!!
SORRY!
REP
IF SHE DOESN'T END HER SENTENCES WITH "YOU KNOW," SHE'S NOTHING LIKE ME...YOU KNOW.
UNION OF THE SNAKE
AND I'VE GOT A SIZABLE BUST
...I DIDN'T COME ALL THIS WAY TO RECEIVE THIS KIND OF TREATMENT.

**KAGESAKI-SENSEI IS THE CREATOR OF HEKIKAI NO AION THAT SEINE MIYAZAKI COMES FROM.

I'D FIRST INVITE YOU TO THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA YOU LOVE SO MUCH... YOU KNOW.
QUIT IT!!
...GOOD THING YOU'RE A SNAKE. IF YOU WERE A MERMAID, I'D BE KILLING YOU RIGHT NOW.



SIGN: SEAFOOD / CHINESE TREASURE SHIP

IT'S BECAUSE I'M MADE TO LOOK WEIRD AND GIVEN LAME SCENARIOS TO WORK WITH.
I AM WORKING MY ASS OFF HERE...
...BUT WHEN I LOOK ONLINE, IT'S ONLY HIMARI AND KUESU GETTING ALL THE ATTENTION.

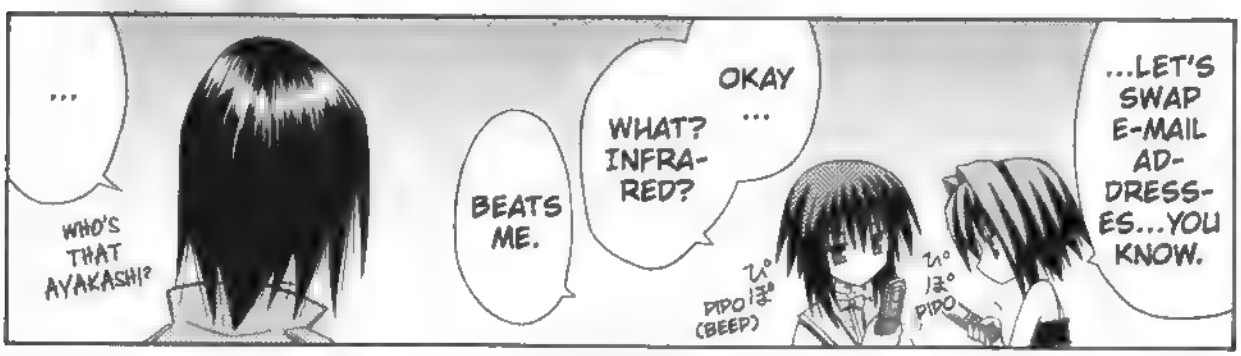
I'M SURPRISED YOU EVEN GOT IN HERE.
I WASN'T... DRINKING. MATRA TOLD ME TO COME HERE IF I HAD ANY COMPLAINTS TO TELL HIM...
DON'T DRINK IF YOU'RE UNDERAGE!!
DOSU (WHUMP)
DOOF!!
IF ONE OF OUR STUDENTS IS CAUGHT DRINKING, I BELIEVE WE'LL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE.
THEN ERASE HER. ERASE HER WITH ALL YOUR MIGHT.
I SAID I WASN'T DRINKING...
...IF YOU'VE COME WITH SOMETHING TO SAY, THEN OUT WITH IT.
... WELL, ALL JOKING ASIDE...
OKAY, LET'S SEE. I DON'T REALLY CARE IF THE READERS MESS WITH ME.
YOU DON'T!?
AS LONG AS THEY'RE DOING IT WITH LOVE, THAT'S FINE. BUT THE PROBLEM IS...

...EDITOR M WHO SAYS THINGS LIKE "RINKO DIDN'T DIE IN THE LAST CHAPTER, SO EVERYONE'S GOING TO BE SO DISAP-POINTED." AND "IT'S NOT ENOUGH IF WE JUST HAVE RINKO PERSUADING TAMA-SAN, SO ADD A SCENE WITH HIMARI"!!
I WILL CURSE YOU SO THAT YOUR BOOBS SHRINK!!
APPARENTLY SHE CLAIMS TO HAVE SIZE E CUPS, BUT YOUR BOOBS SHRINK AS YOU LOSE WEIGHT TOO.
I'M JUST AFRAID OF NOT BEING ABLE TO CURB THIS SEXUAL HARASS-MENT...
I'M SO SORRY
.....

OH, HIMARI-SAN! YOU'RE HIS BODY-GUARD, AND YOU CAN'T TELL?
...WHO'S THAT? A NEW WORKER?
THAT'S YUUTO-SAN!
BIKU! (SHOCK)
WHAT!?
WHY... IS THIS HAP-PENING TO ME?
THE HERO OF A HAREM MANGA...
... NEEDS TO CROSS-DRESS AT LEAST ONCE!
HEE!
HEE!
GYU (CLENCH)
NAME TAG: NO BOOBS
IT'S CROSS-DRESS-ING SASA-SAN!
SINCE WE'RE MAKING TODAY BOY DAY, WE HAVE ANOTHER SPECIAL GUEST.
YOUNG LORD...I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO PULL OFF THE FE-MALE LOOK, BUT...
YOU! THOUGHT! THAT!?
HEH HEH HEH!
MAID! MAID! ♡
偽乳

WELL, SASA-SAN. WHAT'S THE SECRET BEHIND DRESSING LIKE A GIRL?
DON'T THINK WITH YOUR HEAD. FEEL IT WITH YOUR UTERUS. ♡
THAT'S THE TICKET!
YOU DON'T HAVE ONE!!
BUT THAT'S WHAT AGEHA SAID.
THAT'S BECAUSE SHE'S A BITCH.
A LITTLE BITCH
SAID BITCH
...THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD ON ME...

I SYM-PATHIZE, BUT GIVE IT UP, OWNER.
...NOW THAT THERE'S BOYS WEARING THEM...
...WHEN LIZ-CHAN FIRST DESIGNED THOSE MAID UNIFORMS, I COULDN'T RESIST, BUT...



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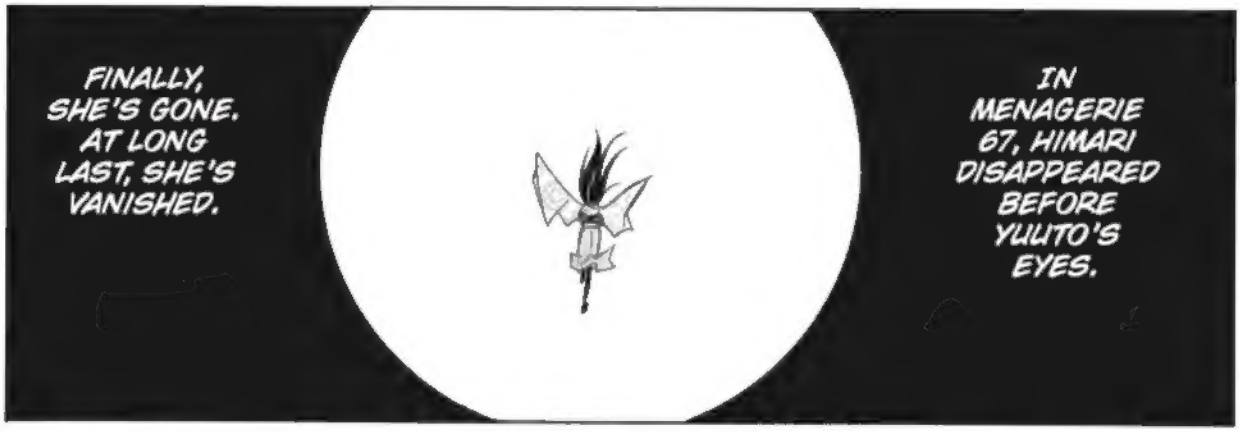
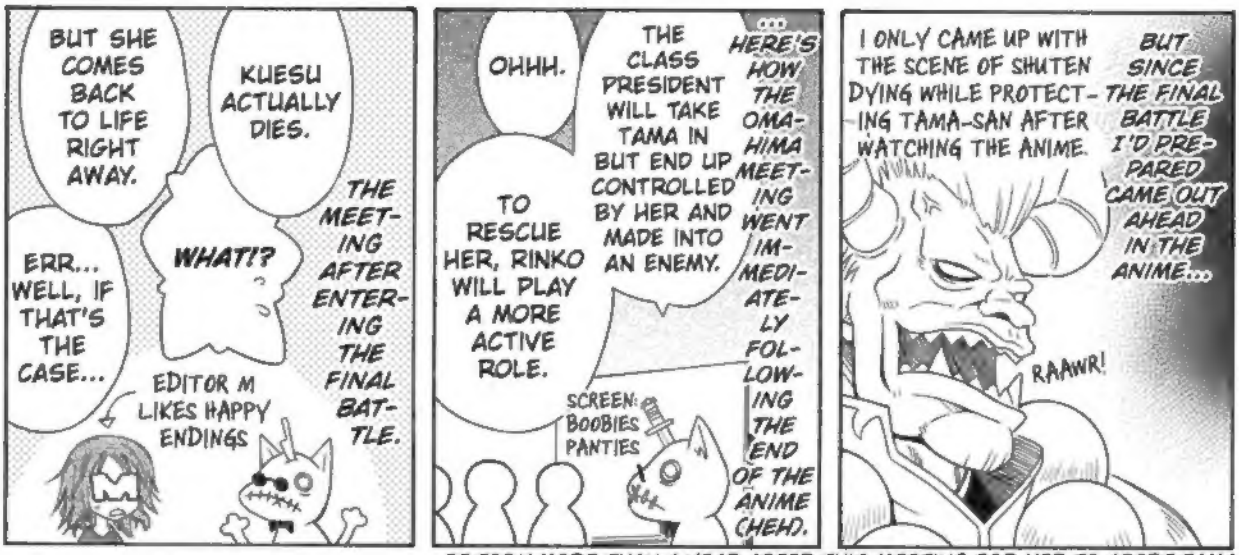


BUT NO CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE PROGRESS OF THE BASIC STORY AS GEARED FOR THE CONCLUSION.
WHEN THE SERIALIZATION FIRST STARTED, I THOUGHT, "HOW NICE IT'D BE IF I COULD RELEASE A WHOLE COMPILED VOLUME..." THEN, AFTER VOLUME 1 WAS RELEASED, I THOUGHT, "LET'S AT LEAST GET TO THREE VOLUMES!"
"FIVE OR SIX VOLUMES" WAS THE ORIGINAL PLAN, BUT THEN THE SERIALIZATION WAS EXTENDED TO MATCH THE ANIME.
ORIGINAL EDITOR: K-MURA

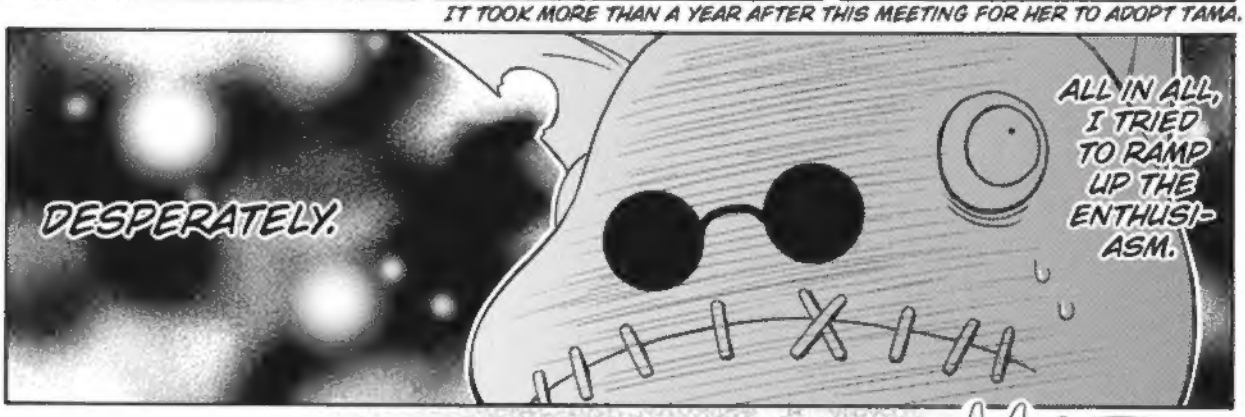
THE LOCATION OF MOST OF OUR MEETINGS: MAID CAFES

SINCE THIS WAS ORIGINALLY GOING TO BE A SHORT SERIES, OUR CHARACTERS DIDN'T HAVE SOME CONCRETE GOAL LIKE "WIN AN AYAKASHI WAR" OR "FIND A HIDDEN TREASURE".
AND SO I INTRODUCED THE VERY PREDICTABLE ENEMIES OF TAMA AND SHUTEN.

HIMARI'S GONE! YES, SHE'S GONE!
THEN FOUR YEARS! AFTER MORE THAN FOUR YEARS, WE'VE FINALLY RETURNED TO THE ORIGINAL TRACKS I LAID OUT!!
AND BLACK HIMARI'S MEOWING SOMETHING FIERCE!!


THE MEETING AFTER ENTERING THE FINAL BATTLE.
KUESU ACTUALLY DIES.
BUT SHE COMES BACK TO LIFE RIGHT AWAY.
WHAT!?
ERR... WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE...
EDITOR M LIKES HAPPY ENDINGS
...HERE'S HOW THE OMAHIMA MEETING WENT IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE END OF THE ANIME (HEH).
THE CLASS PRESIDENT WILL TAKE TAMA IN BUT END UP CONTROLLED BY HER AND MADE INTO AN ENEMY.
OHHH.
TO RESCUE HER, RINKO WILL PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE.
SCREEN: BOOBIES PANTIES
BUT SINCE THE FINAL BATTLE I'D PREPARED CAME OUT AHEAD IN THE ANIME...
I ONLY CAME UP WITH THE SCENE OF SHUTEN DYING WHILE PROTECTING TAMA-SAN AFTER WATCHING THE ANIME.
RAAWR!

IT TOOK MORE THAN A YEAR AFTER THIS MEETING FOR HER TO ADOPT TAMA.



OMAHIMA WILL BE ENDING IN THE NEXT VOLUME.
SINCE I'D NEVER EXPECTED THIS SULTRY HAREM LOVE COMEDY TO GO ON FOR SO LONG, IN MANY I'M ALWAYS WORKING AT IT...
...DESPERATELY.

IN VOLUME 11, THE FIELD OF VISION IS NARROWED AND LINGERS IN THE BRAIN. ALL OF A SUDDEN, KUESU'S BACK FROM THE DEAD. I'VE EMPLOYED THIS KIND OF PATTERN OF SUDDEN DEATH BEING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED BY SPEEDY RECOVERY IN MY PAST WORKS TOO, SO I WROTE THE AFTERWORD IN THE LAST VOLUME REALLY SOBER SO AS TO NOT GIVE AWAY WHAT WAS IN STORE. I'M SO PROUD OF MYSELF (HEH).
EVERY CHAPTER HAS BOOBIES AND PANTIES GALORE, BUT THE CHARACTERS ARE IN A REAL PINCH NOW.
...SINCE THE BASIC STORY'S SO RAUNCHY, YOU CAN'T EXPECT ME TO CHANGE IT. CAN YOU?
BUT NOW IT'S HIMARI WHO'S IN TROUBLE. THE FINAL BOOK IS AT HAND!

JANUARY 2013 MATRA MILAN

SPECIAL THANKS TO: STUDIO HIBARI-SAMA, YUKI MATSUOKA-SAMA, YUNA KAGEZAKI-SAMA, SHOUYOU SAIJOU-SAMA, TZAWA-SAMA (ICHIJINSHA)

OMAMORI HIMARI 11

MILAN MATRA

Translation: Christine Dashiell • Lettering: Stephanie Lee

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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